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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Strong Deliverer, You have crafted our lives for service. Guide our lawmakers to walk with integrity. May they examine their hearts, comprehending the motives behind their thoughts, words, and deeds.

Lord, grant that their gratitude for Your loving kindness will compel them to walk in Your truth and abide by Your precepts.

O Lord, we trust You with our tomorrows, as we feel Your presence each hour. We know You will carry us through the darkest night.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Bridget Meehan Brennan, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, since the time John Jay was inaugurated as the first Chief Justice, only 115 individuals have been chosen to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Out of these 115 Justices, only 5—only 5—have been women. Only two—only two—have been African Americans. Only one—just one—has been Hispanic. And to date, never—never—has an African-American woman sat on the highest Court in the land.

Soon, President Biden will have an opportunity to make the Supreme Court look more like America by nominating the first Black woman in U.S. history to serve as a Justice. Every single Member of this Chamber, regardless of party, should embrace the President's commitment to make sure that our courts—and especially the Supreme Court—better reflect our country's diversity, and nominating a Black woman as Justice is a long overdue step toward achieving that goal.

Past Presidents, from Eisenhower to Johnson to Reagan, were clear about their intentions of nominating historic and barrier-breaking individuals to the Supreme Court. President Biden's commitment to nominate a Black woman is a continuation of that important effort.

And once President Biden announces his nominee, I intend to have the Senate move quickly so we can fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent and, ultimately, confirm the President's pick. We will have a fair process but also a quick process so that the work of the Supreme Court continues uninterrupted.

If our democracy is to prosper in the 21st century, the American people must have confidence that our Federal courts will faithfully adhere to the solemn principle of "equal justice under law." The more our judges reflect our Nation's vibrancy and rich diversity, the more effectively they will be able to administer equal justice.

And make no mistake, a more balanced, more diverse judiciary has been one of the Senate Democrats' top priority in our work with the Biden administration. Over the past year, we have worked at a record pace to confirm the most judicial nominees in the President's first year since the time of Ronald Reagan, and we have done it with nominees who bring diversity in their backgrounds, their life experiences, and professional expertise—something that didn't happen, really, in a large way until this year.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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